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Letter dated 18 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

As the Permanent Representative of the country currently holding the Chairmanship of the Council of the Treaty on Collective Security and the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Treaty on Collective Security, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the participants in the extraordinary meeting of the Committee of Secretaries of the Security Councils of the States parties to the Treaty on Collective Security, which took place on 9 October 2001 in Dushanbe (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would have the text of this statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Movses **Abelian**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia

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Annex to the letter dated 18 October 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

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The participants in the meeting, having thoroughly considered the situation that is developing on the southern boundaries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and in the Central Asian region as well as the urgent questions with regard to counteracting international terrorism and religious extremism, unanimously note the exceptional importance in the current situation of close, all-round cooperation on the part of the corresponding structures of the States parties to the Treaty on Collective Security and the other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as the need for an ongoing exchange of information, the speedy reaching of agreement on assessments of the situation that is taking shape, and the elaboration of agreed approaches and positions.

To these ends, the participants in the meeting consider it necessary to submit, in the established manner for the consideration of the CIS Council of Heads of State, a proposal to establish an inter-State committee on security questions.

The participants in the meeting stress the readiness of their countries to actively assist the international community in its efforts to form a global anti-terrorist front, including steps to draw up a general convention on combating international terrorism. They support the idea of establishing, under the aegis of the United Nations, a broad international fund for financing specific counter-terrorist operations. They recognize that it is necessary for the States parties to the Treaty to engage in broad international cooperation aimed at suppressing the financing of terrorist activities. In this connection, the participants noted the importance of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) of 28 September 2001.

Decisive measures must be taken to foil the plans of terrorist and extremist organizations which, under the cover of religious — and, in particular, Islamic — slogans, are striving to seize power in various countries and regions. At the same time, there must be no question of equating the millions of faithful Muslims with the terrorist fanatics.

The participants in the meeting consider, in the present situation, the dissemination of interpretive information among broad sectors of public opinion a most important aspect of combating international terrorism. They believe that various international forums and meetings should be organized and conducted to consolidate world public opinion in support of decisive action against terrorism, under whatever banner it flies. In that connection, the participants support the proposal by the Russian Muslim religious authorities that an international conference should be held in Moscow entitled "Islam against Terrorism".

Having discussed the situation in Afghanistan and the surrounding areas in the context of the current anti-terrorist operation, the participants in the meeting emphasize that, at this crucial juncture, the sound political forces in Afghanistan should combine efforts with a view to restoring peace and stability in that country. They are in favour of continuing to provide the vital assistance given to the

internationally recognized Government of Afghanistan and to supply humanitarian aid to the Afghan people.

With regard to cooperation between the CIS member States and the United States of America and its closest allies, the participants note the importance of maintaining the policies agreed by their countries in respect of the conduct of the anti-terrorist operation in Afghanistan.

The meeting examined a series of practical measures which would, when implemented, help to improve the capacities and potential of the Treaty on Collective Security in combating international terrorism. In particular, the urgent need to step up efforts to set up a mechanism for the exchange of operative information among the States parties was recognized.

The participants in the meeting note the urgent need to carry out the task of developing a clearly defined system for managing the collective rapid deployment forces. In that connection, they emphasize that the command and the headquarters, currently being established, of the collective rapid deployment forces need daily contact with and guidance in their activities from the headquarters for coordinating military cooperation among the CIS member States.

The meeting focused attention on the importance, in the present circumstances, of strengthening all the activities of the CIS Anti-terrorist Centre. With that aim in view, the members of the Committee called upon the CIS member States to provide funding for the Centre and its office in Bishkek to enable them to carry out the full range of their functions at the appropriate level.

On behalf of the participants in the meeting

(*Signed*) V. **Rushailo**
Chairman of the Committee of Secretaries of the Security Councils
of the States parties to the Treaty on Collective Security
Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation